



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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Office on Aging
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Director

For Immediate Release:

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**Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Announces Grant Funding Opportunity
for Community Projects to Benefit Seniors**

Applications Available Now for ElderCare Trust Fund Grants

(Columbia, S.C.) The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging is now accepting proposals for grant funding from community organizations around the state through The ElderCare Trust Fund. Grant proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2006.

The ElderCare Trust Fund was created by act of the State Legislature in 1992. Donations to the fund are collected through voluntary contributions by check off on income tax return forms or by private donations. Funds are used to award grants to public and private nonprofit organizations to establish innovative programs and services for older adults so that they may remain in their homes with maximum independence and dignity, avoiding institutional care for as long as possible. The check-off for the ElderCare Trust fund is found on line 26 of the SC 1040 tax form, or on line 13 of the SC 1040A short form. Donations can also be made directly to the fund by contacting the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

Grant applications are judged competitively by a review team and awards are distributed by the ElderCare Trust Fund Board, which is made up of citizen leaders from across the state. Some of the community projects funded by the ElderCare Trust Fund in the past include the "Mr. Fix-it" project, which uses church and community volunteers to provide home repairs in 7 upstate counties; the "Friendly Visitor" project in Greenville, which involved young people visiting and running errands for individuals in nursing homes; and the "One Step Rural Initiative" in Williamsburg County that provided home modifications and repairs to plumbing and heating systems for elderly citizens.

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To qualify for funding, applications must be submitted by a public or private nonprofit organization. Projects that utilize a coalition or partnership of several agencies, groups or community organizations to establish an innovative program or activity that meets a community need are strongly encouraged. A pre-application workshop for interested groups or organizations will be held at 10:00 am on June 9, 2006 at the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging in Columbia. The workshop is free but registration is required. For more information, to request a grant application packet, or register for the workshop contact:

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